Handicrafts Exporting units in A.P.

1539. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicrafts exporting units in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) what handicrafts items are generally being exported by these units;

(c) what concessions and facilities are being provided to encourage export of handicrafts items from the State; and

(d) how handicraft artisans are being benefited in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFTEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The number of handicrafts exporting units registered with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) at present is 64.

(b) The handicrafts item being exported by these units include: items of brass, copper, alumunium, coconut, shells, stone & woodware; decorative items, handprinted item; toys & dools; lace & crochet goods; kalamkari; constume jewellery etc.

(c) The concession and facilities being provided by the Government to exporters to promote the export of handicrafts items in the country including in the state of Andhra Pradesh include: duty draw back on exports; eligibility of funds from Market Access Initiative scheme for developing website for virtual exhibition; entitlement to the benefit of export house status on achieving lower average export performance of Rs. 5.00 crore 201 ore during the preceding three licensing years; entitlement to duty free import of specified items upto 3% of FOB value of exports and assistance under MDA scheme to exporters for participation in fairs/exhibition abroad as well as for undertaking research.

(d) Handicrafts artisans in the country including in the State of Andhra Pradesh are benefited through various schemes being implemented by the Government for promotion and development of handicrafts. The schemes include AHVY, training & extension, design & technical upgradation, marketing suppo'l & services, research & development, financial assistance to state handicrafts development corporation/apex

societies and export promotion etc. Recently launched "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" (AHVY) seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve sustainable development of the artisan clusters.

Complaints against purchase of cotton by CCI to Vigilance Commissioner

1540. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a complaint was made to the Vigilance Commissioner regarding the purchase of cotton by CCI at Wankaner in the year 2002;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the Vigilance Commission; and

(c) what steps have been taken against the officials responsible for such purchases of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaint was enquired into and advice of the Central Vigilance Commission was sought on the investigation report. The Commission on consideration of the investigation report endorsed closure of the case.

(c) In view of (b) above, no action against any official of CCI is required. However, on the advice of Central Vigilance Commission, instructions have been reiterated to all the Branch Offices that purchases of Kapas under MSP (Minimum Support Price) be carried out only from the Market Yards in the presence of APMC (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee) Officials.